

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 INR-05 PA-01 PRS-01 /069 W

----- 060040

O 030848Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7265

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8041

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, KS, KN

SUBJECT: MOBUTU VISIT TO SEOUL

REF: KINSHASA 10153

1. VICE FONMIN LHO SHIN-YONG TOLD DCM DEC 3 THAT WORD OF MOBUTU'S PLAN TO VISIT SEOUL FOR FOUR DAYS BEGINNING DEC 23 HAD BEEN RECEIVED THAT MORNING. LHO SAID THAT FONMIN, COGNIZANT OF POLITICAL STAKES, HAD URGED PRESIDENT PARK TO REACT FAVORABLY. PRES'S SCHEDULE, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN COMPLETELY COMMITTED THROUGH JAN 20 AND ROKG HAD VERY RELUCTANTLY COME TO CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE UNABLE TO RECEIVE MOBUTU UNTIL THAT TIME.

2. LHO SAID FONMIN INSTRUCTING ROK EMBASSY KINSHASA TO CONVEY THIS WORD AS GENTLY AS POSSIBLE TO GOZ, TO EXPRESS DEEP REGRET FOR ROKG INABILITY TO RECEIVE MOBUTU AT TIME SUGGESTED, AND TO CONVEY HEARTFELT INVITATION TO VISIT ROK ON OR ABOUT JAN 20. LHO ALSO ASKED THAT U.S. EMBASSY KINSHASA ASSIST ROK COLLEAGUE IN
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SOFTENING IMPACT. DCM POINTED OUT THAT GOZ, AND PROBABLY

MOBUTU PERSONALLY, WOULD TAKE THIS AS AN AFFRONT AND URGED ROKG TO RECONSIDER. LHO RESPONDED THAT ROKG HAD CAREFULLY TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION ALL RAMIFICATIONS IN REACHING DECISION AND HAD SIMPLY NOT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT TO MAKE VISIT SUCCESS. IN ANY EVENT, ROKG DECISION WAS FIRM.

3. COMMENT: MOBUTU'S CHOICE OF DATES FOR SEOUL VISIT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN LESS FORTUNATE. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY KINSHASA DOING ANYTHING IT CAN TO EASE GOZ REACTION AND TO PERSUADE GOZ THAT ROKG HONESTLY DOES WISH TO WELCOME MOBUTU IN APPROPRIATE STYLE AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME.
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